

### Clean Up Australia Day



**Clean Up Australia Day is an annual event that takes place on the first Sunday of March.**

It's a community-based environmental campaign that encourages Australians to clean up their local areas, including parks, beaches, and waterways, to reduce litter and waste.

The event in Longreach took place at Apex Park. As an incentive there was a \$500 cheque for the community group who gathered the most points between collecting rubbish and the trash trivia. Congratulations to the Longreach State Primary School who took home the title of Trash Trivia Kings and Queens and the \$500.

Would you have been able to answer the following questions correctly? (Answers at the end of the article).

**1. It takes approximately how long for the average size plastic water bottle to fully compose?**

- a. 150 years      b. 250 years
- c. 450 years      d. 550 years

**2. Currently Australia ranks as one of the highest waste producers in the world?**

- a. True      b. False

The volunteers flowed in all morning and cleaned up parts of the river but also around town where they saw fit. It was great to see so many locals including kids and youth of all ages to get together and pick up rubbish along the river, one of the favourite recreational spaces in the region. Apart from general rubbish, a lot of metal, broken glass, tyres and even old furniture was picked up. Big thanks to all who came and helped, making it a fun, educational and great morning.

We do have Clean Up days in all other towns as well. Yaraka is cleaning-up before ANZAC Day, Isisford before the yearly fishing competition end of July and Ilfracombe is still to be decided, with a date in winter.



Answers: 1. c. and 2. a.

# Brett's Briefing

- with CEO Brett Walsh

Hello and welcome to another edition of IILY, our monthly newsletter, updating you on the work of Council in the community.

By the time this edition reaches your mailbox, we may well have a declared result and a new Council in place. Stay tuned to future editions of IILY for profiles of the new Councillors. In the meantime, as we prepare this month's edition, we are still in the caretaker period – so it's my pleasure again to update you on some of the things we've been up to.

Firstly, we are thrilled to announce the launch of our newly redeveloped website. With a fresh look and improved navigation, our goal is to make it easier for you to access the information you need. The website now features updated sections on council services, local news, and upcoming events, all designed with you in mind.

This month also saw the first meeting of our new Youth Council. This initiative provides an exciting platform for our young leaders to voice their opinions, contribute ideas, and actively participate in shaping the future of the region. We believe that engaging with our youth is crucial in building a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-thinking community. You can find out more about the Youth Council in this issue of IILY.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who's participated in our Walking Survey. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us understand your needs and preferences regarding our local walking tracks and spaces. We are committed to using this insight to enhance our recreational facilities and promote a healthy, active lifestyle in Longreach. The survey is open until 17 April.

Lastly, we are pleased to announce the upcoming dates for our bi-annual Community Forums. These forums are a great opportunity for you to engage with us face to face, discuss local issues, and share your ideas for the betterment of our community. I encourage you to attend and look forward to productive discussions. Widespread participation is crucial to our success, and we have some exciting changes to the format which we hope will mean more people than ever can attend and have their say in a safe and constructive way.

Naturally, you don't have to wait for the forums to be able to have your say. If you would like more information about anything we're doing around the region, please get in touch with us directly. Our customer service team will gladly field any enquiry you make, and connect you to the right person. Call us, or email us, check our website, follow our socials, or read this newsletter. You can contact Council directly anytime on (07) 4658 4111 (24hrs), or via email to [council@longreach.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@longreach.qld.gov.au).



## Welcome Packs for Newbies

First of all, welcome to the Longreach Region. No matter if you are moving back to town, if you are only here for a period of time or if you are marking Longreach your place to live, we are excited to have you as part of our community. And to get you started, head to the Visitor Information Centre in Eagle Street in Longreach to pick up your welcome pack.

Longreach Regional Council partnered with the Longreach Baptist Church to create a special package filled with treasure. Discover the maps to guide you around all our towns, find places to explore, general helpful information, brochures, a beautiful locally crafted candle, coffee vouchers and

lots more. Huge thanks to all the locals who have contributed to put together such an individual and special pack.

Welcome to the Longreach Region, where strangers turn into friends!

If you want to find out more about our region, places to eat, shop and explore visit [www.experiencelongreach.com.au](http://www.experiencelongreach.com.au).



COMMUNITY

## Community Forums 2024

Community forums are a chance to meet your Councillors and the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) but they are also valuable resources for learning, networking, and interacting with other community members with similar interests. They provide a platform for people to connect and engage in meaningful conversations. For our forums in April we will be trialling a different format as we want to hear everyone's thoughts and ideas for improvement and how we can work together.

Join us for the forums, we want to hear from you!

Longreach	Saturday, 20 April	10am- 12pm	Longreach Library	Sausage sizzle
Ilfracombe	Saturday, 20 April	2pm-4pm	Ilfracombe Rec Centre	Afternoon tea
Isisford	Tuesday, 22 April	5.30pm-7.30pm	Isisford Town Hall	Dinner
Yaraka	Tuesday, 29 April	5.30pm-7.30pm	Yaraka Town Hall	Dinner



## Minutes in a Minute

### March 2024 Council Meeting

Council met for the final Ordinary Meeting of its term at the Council Chambers in Longreach on 14 March. Among other matters, the meeting:

- Received reports from the Mayor and CEO;
- Discussed plans and dates for the upcoming community forums in each community;
- Considered multiple community funding applications; and,
- Paid tribute to retiring Councillors David Paterson and Trevor Smith.

#### Individual Donations

Organisation/ Individual	Event/Project Activity	Event Date	Grant Approved
Havana Elliott	Capricorn Netball Academy	February-June 2024	\$350.00
Malcolm Strong	Young Conservatorium Ensemble Program	February-November 2024	\$350.00
Tyler Morton	Australian Junior High School Rodeo World Finals	23-29 June 2024	\$1,000.00

#### Community Donations

Organisation/ Name	Event/Activity	Grant Approved
Isisford Barcoo Recreational Fishing Association	Isisford Fishing Competition	Financial \$2,500.00
Isisford Sheep and Wool Show	Isisford Sheep and Wool Show 2024	Financial \$1,350.00 In-Kind \$1,150.00
Yaraka Gymkhana Association	Yaraka Horse and Bike Gymkhana	Financial \$4,821.00
Yaraka Sports and Progress Association	Restoration of Old Photos	Financial \$2,800.00

Our Council meetings are always open to the public, and you can find the full agenda and minutes online at: [longreach.qld.gov.au/meetings-agendas-minutes](http://longreach.qld.gov.au/meetings-agendas-minutes).



# Youth Council Spotlight

Longreach Regional Council has established a Youth Council for 2024 with a total of six Youth Councillors between the ages of 14 and 25 with representatives from Ilfracombe and Longreach.

The aim of the Youth Council is to give our youth a voice and listen to their advice when it comes to projects and events relevant to them in our region. Are you working on a business case, project or an idea targeting youth? Send the Youth Councillors an email to

[youthcouncil@longreach.qld.gov.au](mailto:youthcouncil@longreach.qld.gov.au) to present your idea at one of their next meetings and get their feedback.

The next meetings will be Monday 22 April from 3.15pm until 5pm and Monday 13 May from 3.15pm until 5pm. The dates for the meetings after will be decided at the next meeting.

The first official Youth Councillor meeting took place on Tuesday 5 March at the Longreach Council Chambers. The Youth Councillors elected their Youth Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Congratulations Jozette (Mayor) and Christian (Deputy Mayor).

Other topics discussed in the meeting were Youth Week events in April, ideas for the Council stall at the Longreach Show and other general business. You can find the full meeting minutes on our website [longreach.qld.gov.au/youth-council](http://longreach.qld.gov.au/youth-council).

Please see a profile on each of the Youth Councillors below. Feel free to chat to them when you see them around the region.

HELLO

## Meet our Youth Councillors



### Youth Mayor: Jozette

Jozette is passionate about making a difference in her community, particularly for young people.

Her ideas and energy to create additional options and opportunities for the youth can contribute significantly to the well-being and development of the community.

She is also quite active in the sporting sector of the community as she is part of many different sports clubs, both as a participant and volunteer. Family and family traditions are what is important to her.



### Youth Deputy Mayor: Christian

Christian enjoys playing video games, dungeons and dragons, and Sudoku.

A couple of issues he has identified that impact the youth of the region is the lack of extra-curricular activities, and the social media addiction. He is motivated to be part of the youth council to have the ability to have a voice to make a difference for the youth of the community.



### Elizabeth:

Elizabeth enjoys spending time with her family and friends, she is an active community volunteer, she is currently the vice

president of the Flyers Ball and the Secretary for the Longreach Show society.

For Elizabeth the top issues she sees impacting the youth of the region is the lack of activities or events available after school and school holidays, as well as the lack of employment opportunities for school leavers and career progression.

Her motivation to join the youth council is to have a positive impact on the community while advocating for youth issues.



### Jackarra:

Jackarra is quite active in the sporting sector of the community as she is part of many different sports clubs, both as a participant

and volunteer. She also enjoys time spent with family and friends, water-skiing and socialising.



### Leigh:

Leigh enjoys computer games, visiting the skate park, and other parks and spaces around Longreach and being with friends.

The limited activities available to youth and the absence of a dedicated youth centre for the youth to get together in a safe space to spend time and hang out with friends is one of the things Leigh identifies as an issues for the youth of the community, these factors are what motivated Leigh to be part of the youth council to be more engaged in the community and help make some changes for the better.



### Mahalia:

Outside of school Mahalia enjoys painting, reading and walking. One of the issues she feels impacts young people in the region is

the lack of entertainment and opportunities for our youth, this has been a big motivating factor in joining the youth council.

## Youth Leadership Retreat

The Youth Leadership Retreat took place on 17/18 February at the Longreach Civic Centre. Will who is the founder of Youth Leadership Academy Australia [www.ylaaus.com](http://www.ylaaus.com) and Bonnie, his colleague, were facilitating the weekend in Longreach.

It was a great opportunity for all youth to get together and work on their leadership skills. The whole weekend was all about personal growth and empowerment. In the intense two day workshop the participants covered a variety of topics. What does

leadership and also self-leadership look like? How can you make your voice and ideas heard?

They learned what communication means and how to effectively communicate with each other but also how to present ideas to an audience. Over the weekend they identified issues in our region and worked on ideas how to tackle these.

They participated in a variety of activities. One being the maze where the focus lied on teamwork, adapting to change,



resilience and how to react once a setback happens!

A weekend packed with learning, new ideas, growth and lots of fun! Everybody truly enjoyed the weekend and gave the workshop 10/10 points, they all would recommend it to friends and would love to have the team back for another session!

23/24

# Projects in Focus

## ♦ Gravel re-sheet Bailey Street, Ilfracombe

The Ilfracombe Construction crew completed the gravel re-sheet of Bailey Street in Ilfracombe.



## ♦ Weed wash down bay, Ilfracombe

The Ilfracombe Construction crew is also working on the road rehabilitation to the weed wash down bay facility. This project is funded by Roads to Recovery (R2R). Weather permitting, this project will be completed by the end of March.

## ♦ Multi-Purpose Court, Ilfracombe

The concrete slab and footings for the new multi-purpose court are now complete. Next on the list is the instalment of the shade structure over the entire court. This will occur in April. The project is supported by the federal Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

→ Made for the community → New facility for Ilfracombe



## Longreach Council New Website

We are proudly re-introducing our website after it has received a facelift.

For the last year the team has been working on the upgrade and one of the main focusses was the new structure leading you directly to the information you want.

Our mega menu is tailored to your needs and the page features a quick link section for the most visited pages. We have also improved the search function and a worked on accessibility and inclusiveness.

Technology is constantly improving and we are working hard to keep up with the latest trends. Our website will always be evolving and changing to keep the page relevant to you.

Have a look for yourself at [www.longreach.qld.gov.au](http://www.longreach.qld.gov.au).

April 25, 2024

# ANZAC DAY

We Will Remember Them  
Services in each town

[longreach.qld.gov.au/events](http://longreach.qld.gov.au/events)



## Creating better places to walk in Longreach

Complete the survey to provide valuable insights to help improve the footpath network in Longreach.



The Longreach Regional Council is developing a Walking Network Plan. The Plan will inform Council's future priority works program by identifying where good walking infrastructure is needed including pathways, crossing locations, shade, lighting, seating and water bubblers.

### We want to know:

- **Where** do you want to walk?
- **What's** stopping you from walking?
- **Where** are improvements needed?
- **What** can make walking a safer, more convenient, and comfortable experience?

Further information on walking network planning is available on Council's website [www.longreach.qld.gov.au/feedback](http://www.longreach.qld.gov.au/feedback) or call 07 4658 4111.



Funded by the Department of Transport and Main Roads under the Walking Local Government Grants



Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we operate. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

